

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN 0103

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNSC, RH, SF
SUBJECT: ORGANIZATION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ARMS EMBARGO
COMMITTEE

REF: USUN 5821

SUMMARY: THE UN SECRETARIAT REPORTEDLY HAS REACHED SOME DECISIONS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF UN SECRETARIAT STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE NEW ARMS EMBARGO COMMITTEE. WE ALSO EXPECT THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL WILL ISSUE AN EARLY CALL FOR A MEETING OF MEMBERS TO ORGANIZE THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE AND TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURAL RULES. WE ARE COMMENCING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BRITISH AND OTHERS IN THE COUNCIL CONCERNING OUR TACTICAL STRATEGY. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY AN AMERICAN MEMBER OF UN SECRETARIAT THAT A CALL BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT (HARRIMAN, NIGERIA) FOR A MEETING OF MEMBERS TO ORGANIZE NEW ARMS EMBARGO COMMITTEE CAN BE EXPECTED SOON. THE SECRETARIAT EXPECTS, IN FACT, THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL SERVE NOTICE OF THIS INTENTION, POSSIBLY SUGGESTING AN EARLY DATE FOR THE MEETING, DURING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS OF THE COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 16. (USUN 092).

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2. DURING PAST WEEK THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF STAFFLEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION OF SECRETARIAT STAFF THAT WILL SUPPORT THE NEW COMMITTEE. UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL SHEVCHENKO, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS, HAD LAST FALL INDICATED INTENTION TO DESIGNATE HISHAM RIFAL (SYRIAN) AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE WITH AN AMERICAN, DAVID HENRY, IN THE REMAINING

STAFF POSITION. THIS SMALL STAFF, ACCORDING TO SHEVCHENKO'S ORIGINAL PLAN, WAS TO HAVE BEEN UNDER SUPERVISION OF HEINRICH GLEISSNER AS SECRETARY OF THE NEW COMMITTEE. IT WAS COMMONLY BELIEVED IN THE SECRETARIAT THAT THIS ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN RESULTED FROM LEVERAGE GIVEN GLEISSNER BY THE APPROACH OF THE WESTERN FIVE PERM REPS TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL IMMEDIATELY AFTER ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL LAST FALL.

3. WHEN SHEVCHENKO RETURNED FROM HIS HOLIDAY LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, HE BEGAN TO MOVE RAPIDLY ALONG SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LINES. HE ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO MAKE GLEISSNER'S SOVIET DEPUTY THE SECRETARY OF THE NEW COMMITTEE WITH THE SYRIAN AS DEPUTY SECRETARY AND A CANDIDATE FROM BENIN IN THE THIRD POSITION. HE ENVISIONED THIS STAFF, THEREFORE, AS BEING JOINED WITH THE SECRETARIAT STAFF OF THE RHODESIAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE. SHEVCHENKO SAID THE BENIN APPOINTMENT WAS COMPULSORY BECAUSE A PROMISE OF A SENIOR POLITICAL POSITION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT OF BENIN. PARA #4 GLEISSNER REPORTEDLY ARGUED STRONGLY THAT THE NEW STAFF SHOULD BE SEPARATE FROM THE RHODESIAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND SHOULD BE PLACED DIRECTLY UNDER GLEISSNER'S SUPERVISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL. THE ARGUMENT EVENTUALLY RESULTED IN A MEETING FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 6, BETWEEN SHEVCHENKO, GLEISSNER AND JAMES SUTTERLIN, AMCIT DIVISION CHIEF IN THE DEPARTMENT. SUTTERLIN, AFTER COORDINATION WITH THE MISSION, ARGUED STRONGLY THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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WESTERN FIVE WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE RHODESIAN SANCTIONS OPERATION AND THE NEW ARMS EMBARGO COMMITTEE WOULD BE SEPARATE IN STAFF AND IN OPERATION, HE TOLD SHEVCHENKO THAT HE WOULD FACE STRONG OPPOSITION FROM THE WESTERNERS IF HE WENT AHEAD WITH HIS ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN.

5. SUTTERLIN SUCCEEDED IN ARRANGING A COMPROMISE WHICH, WHILE IT INVOLVES OBVIOUS DISADVANTAGES FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IMPROVED ON THE PLAN ORIGINALLY PUT FORWARD BY SHEVCHENKO. THE AGREED ARRANGEMENT WOULD MAKE GLEISSNER SECRETARY, RIFAI DEPUTY SECRETARY, AND THE BENINOIS THIRD OFFICER IN THIS SMALL UNIT. THE OPERATION WOULD BE DIRECTLY UNDER GLEISSNER'S SUPERVISION AND WOULD BE SEPARATELY FROM THE RHODESIAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE. IN SUTTERLIN'S OPINION, RIFAI, WHO WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT FIGURE IN DAILY OPERATION OF THE NEW COMMITTEE STAFF, IS A LONG-TERM INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT WHO, WHILE NOT PARTICULARLY IMAGINATIVE OR STRONGLY MOTIVATED, IS HONEST AND NOT CLOSELY CONTROLLED BY SOVIET/SYRIAN INFLUENCES. THE APPOINTEE FROM BENIN IS UNKNOWN TO US AT THIS TIME, BUT HIS POTENTIAL RESPONSIVENESS TO SHEVCHENKO'S AND OTHER SOVIET INFLUENCES IS OBVIOUS. GLEISSNER IS A KNOWN COMMODITY, HE IS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH OUR OBJECTIVES AND WAYS OF OPERATION AND IS

SYMPATHETIC, BUT HE IS NOT PERSONALLY COMPETENT TO JOUST WITH SHEVCHENKO EXCEPT FOR THE LEVERAGE PROVIDED HIM BY HIS PERSONAL ACCESS TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

6. HENRY, WHILE HE WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING APPOINTMENT TO THE NEW COMMITTEE, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY SUTTERLIN TO WORK WITH MATTERS RELATING TO THE COMMITTEE'S WORK AND IS BEING USED TO SOME EXTENT BY GLEISSNER. HE REPORTS THAT GLEISSNER'S VIEW IS THAT WESTERN INTERESTS MAKE IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE CONCENTRATE ON THREE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL PHASE OF THE NEW COMMITTEE:

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN 0103

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A) ORGANIZATION OF THE BUREAU, INCLUDING THE ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN AND DETERMINATION WHETHER HIS TERM OF OFFICE SHALL BE ONE YEAR, AS IN THE CASE OF THE RHODESIAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE, OR SHALL ROTATE MORE FREQUENTLY, AS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. GLEISSNER BELIEVES IT WOULD BE TO WESTERN ADVANTAGE IF THE CHARIMASHIP COULD BE ROTATED FREQUENTLY. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT RAMPHUL OF MAURITIUS VERY MUCH WANTS THE CHAIRMANSHIP, AND THE LOGIC OF THE UN WOULD SEEM TO SUPPORT AN AFRICAN IN THIS POST. GLEISSNER SUGGESTS THAT WE SEEK TO MAKE VENEZUELA AND INDIA VICE-CHAIRMAN, ON THE BASIS OF STATE NOT PERSONAL IDENTITIES;

B) AGREEMENT ON CLOSED MEETINGS AND CONSENSUS PROCEDURES. ALTHOUGH THE WESTERN FIVE HAVE NOT CAREFULLY EXAMINED OUR PROSPECTS IN RELATION TO THE ISSUE, THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON CLOSED MEETINGS LIKE THE RHODESIAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE BUT CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON THIS. GLEISSNER, ON THE OTHER HAND, BELIEVES THAT SHEVCHENKO AND THE SOVIETS WILL NOT OPPOSE CLOSED MEETINGS OR CONSENSUS DECISIONS. THE REASON IS THAT THE SOVIETS BELIEVE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE

COUNCIL THIS YEAR HAS TURNED ALMOST DISASTROUSLY "CONSERVATIVE."
OPEN MEETINGS AND VOTES ON ISSUES, THEREFORE, ARE LIKELY TO
RUN AGAINST RADICAL INTERESTS; AND

C) STRICT CONTROL OF PRESS RELEASES BY THE COMMITTEE.
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GLEISSNER BELIEVES THAT ONE OF THE KEY DIFFICULTIES WITH THE
RHODESIAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN THE DISTORTIONS IN
STATEMENTS AND OTHER PUBLIC RELEASES OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH HAVE
BEEN INTRODUCED BY HOSTILE MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT STAFF. THE
WESTERN FIVE, THEREFORE, SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH
AGREEMENT ON FIRM CONTROL OF THE PUBLICITY GIVEN THE NEW
COMMITTEE'S WORK.

7. UKUN HAS INDICATED A DESIRE TO DISCUSS OUR OBJECTIVES
IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW COMMITTEE. WE BOTH HAVE AGREED
THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS VERY QUICKLY SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO
INCLUDE THE OTHER THREE IN THE GROUP OF FIVE, AND POSSIBLY
OTHERS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE WILL BE REPORTING FURTHER
AS WE DEVELOP THE IDEAS OF THE NEW YORK DELEGATIONS THROUGH
THESE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS.

LEONARD

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